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SERVICE DATE – JULY 28, 2005

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-979X

CONNECTICUT SOUTHERN RAILROAD, INC.–ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION–IN  
HARTFORD COUNTY, CT

Decided: July 26, 2005

Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc. (CSO) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F–Exempt Abandonments to abandon a 942-foot long stub-ended line of railroad extending from milepost 9.4 (Station 5673+42 on the north side of Colonial Drive) to the end of the line at milepost 9.6 (Station 5664+00), in Manchester, Hartford County, CT. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on June 29, 2005 (70 FR 37491-92). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on July 29, 2005.

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) served an environmental assessment (EA) in this proceeding on July 1, 2005. In the EA, SEA stated that, at the time the EA was prepared, the Connecticut Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) had not completed its assessment of the proposed abandonment. Therefore, SEA recommends that the following environmental condition be placed on any decision granting abandonment authority: pending completion of the SHPO's review, CSO shall retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all sites and structures on the right-of-way that are 50 years old or older until completion of the section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f (NHPA).

Comments to the EA were due by July 18, 2005. Based on the comments received and SEA's recommendation, the environmental condition recommended by SEA in the EA will be imposed.

As conditioned, this decision will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. This proceeding is reopened.

2. Upon reconsideration, the exemption of the abandonment of the line described above is subject to the condition that, pending completion of the SHPO's review, CSO shall retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all sites and structures on the right-of-way that are 50 years old or older until completion of the section 106 process of the NHPA.

3. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary